

AFDC – Foster Care

DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR SERVICES

This program provides aid payments for children living in foster homes and group-care facilities. The Foster Care caseload consists of cases from both the Department of Children's Services (DCS) (approximately 90%) and Probation (approximately 10%). The cost of Probation related foster care cases is approximately 4.5 times greater than DCS cases due to the higher levels of care required for these juveniles.

There are two funding eligibility criteria in the Foster Care Program, federal (federal, state and county participation) and non-federal (state and county only). Foster Care placements are generally eligible for federal financial participation if the parents meet the previous Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program criteria.

- For federal cases, the cost-sharing ratios are approximately 43% federal, 22% state, and 35% County.
- For non-federal cases, the cost-sharing ratio is 40% state and 60% County.
- All county share-of-cost is mandated and is reimbursed from Social Services Realignment and the county general fund.

Additionally, this budget unit provides \$1.1 million in Social Services Realignment funding annually to the Probation Department to assist in operating the Fouts Springs Youth Facility. This facility is a boot-camp type of facility and is used as a diversionary program for delinquent youth.

There is no staffing associated with this budget unit.

BUDGET AND WORKLOAD HISTORY

	Actual 2002-03	Budget 2003-04	Estimate 2003-04	Proposed 2004-05
Total Appropriation	91,002,763	97,635,819	95,281,584	100,802,968
Departmental Revenue	77,072,926	83,857,781	81,503,546	87,328,206
Local Cost	13,929,837	13,778,038	13,778,038	13,474,762

Workload Indicators

Non Federal Annual Paid Cases	14,092	14,394	14,110	14,148
Non Federal Avg Paid Cases Per Month	1,174	1,200	1,176	1,179
Non Federal Avg Monthly Aid	\$1,573	\$1,685	\$1,563	\$1,602
Federal Annual Paid Cases	43,133	42,846	42,419	42,216
Federal Avg Paid Cases Per Month	3,594	3,571	3,535	3,518
Federal Avg Monthly Aid	\$1,569	\$1,687	\$1,700	\$1,825

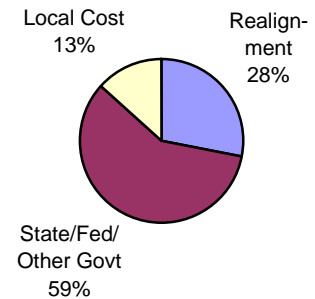
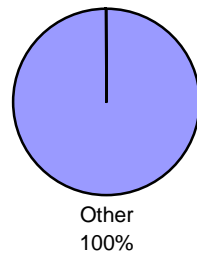
The variance between 2003-04 Budget and Estimate is due to declining caseload, partly due to cases shifting from the Foster Care program into the Kin-Gap program. It was projected that caseload would increase with the opening of the Vision Quest facility. This is an RCL 12 placement facility in which 72 youth were to be admitted beginning in October 2003. Most of these placements have been made and have not impacted the caseload numbers as anticipated due to continuing movement of children into Kin-Gap. This has resulted in the caseload being 1% lower than budgeted.

Additionally, the non-federal cost per case is now projected to be 7% less than budget. Increases in recent years are due to the severe statewide shortage of foster family homes and intensive treatment facilities for seriously troubled children. These children are being placed in higher cost Foster Family Agencies and Group Homes.



2004-05 BREAKDOWN BY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

2004-05 BREAKDOWN BY FINANCING SOURCE



GROUP: Human Services System
DEPARTMENT: AFDC - FOSTER CARE
FUND: General

BUDGET UNIT: AAB BHI
FUNCTION: Public Assistance
ACTIVITY: Aid Programs

ANALYSIS OF 2004-05 BUDGET

	A	B	C	D	E	B+C+D+E F	G	F+G H
	2003-04 Year-End Estimates	2003-04 Final Budget	Cost to Maintain Current Program Services (Schedule A)	Board Approved Adjustments (Schedule A)	Impacts Due to State Budget Cuts (Schedule B)	Board Approved Base Budget	Department Recommended Funded Adjustments (Schedule C)	2004-05 Proposed Budget
Appropriation								
Other Charges	94,181,584	96,535,819	3,435,641	-	-	99,971,460	(268,492)	99,702,968
Transfers	1,100,000	1,100,000	-	-	-	1,100,000	-	1,100,000
Total Appropriation	95,281,584	97,635,819	3,435,641	-	-	101,071,460	(268,492)	100,802,968
Departmental Revenue								
Realignment	24,979,880	25,751,614	2,196,490	-	-	27,948,104	240,403	28,188,507
State, Fed or Gov't Aid	55,803,666	57,406,167	1,075,453	-	-	58,481,620	658,079	59,139,699
Other Revenue	720,000	700,000	163,698	-	(863,698)	-	-	-
Total Revenue	81,503,546	83,857,781	3,435,641	-	(863,698)	86,429,724	898,482	87,328,206
Local Cost	13,778,038	13,778,038	-	-	863,698	14,641,736	(1,166,974)	13,474,762

The Foster Care caseload has experienced a decline in recent years, partly due to cases shifting from the Foster Care program into the Kin-Gap program. Caseloads are projected to remain stable in FY 2004-05.

While caseloads have been declining, costs for these cases continue to increase. This is due to the severe statewide shortage of foster family homes and intensive treatment facilities for seriously troubled children. These children are being placed in higher cost Foster Family Agencies and Group Homes.

Average grants in FY 2004-05 are projected to be 7% higher than FY 2003-04. The rising cost per case is a statewide problem. The Governor is currently looking for solutions to control the rising costs, but it is not known when any new legislation or procedures will be handed down.

The U.S. District Court issued an order in February 2004 in the Rosales v. Thompson case revising the eligibility requirements for foster care cases. Non-federal cases are currently being reviewed that may now be eligible for federal funds. Also, cases that previously were denied foster care funds and had been designated as CalWORKS may now be eligible for foster care funds. Each county is required to review all foster care cases open on or after March 2003 to determine eligibility for retroactive payments. The impact this ruling will have on San Bernardino County will not be known until all affected cases are reviewed.



Finally, the State is proposing to eliminate the County share of Child Support collections in 2004-05, which is used to offset local cost in Foster Care, CalWORKs aid payments (AAB FGR and AAB UPP), and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (AAB KIN). With the loss of this revenue, local cost is projected to exceed target in AAB FGR and AAB KIN. To offset the increase, HSS is proposing to increase budgeted Realignment revenues in Foster Care to assist in transferring a net of \$303,276 in local cost to AAB FGR. This will enable HSS to remain within local cost targets in the subsistence payment budget units.

DEPARTMENT: AFDC - FOSTER CARE
FUND: General
BUDGET UNIT: AAB BHI

SCHEDULE A

MAJOR CHANGES TO THE BUDGET

	Budgeted Staffing	Appropriation	Departmental Revenue	Local Cost
2003-04 FINAL BUDGET	-	97,635,819	83,857,781	13,778,038
Cost to Maintain Current Program Services				
Salaries and Benefits Adjustments	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Fund Adjustments	-	-	-	-
Prop 172	-	-	-	-
Other Required Adjustments	-	3,435,641	3,435,641	-
Subtotal	-	3,435,641	3,435,641	-
Board Approved Adjustments During 2003-04				
30% Spend Down Plan	-	-	-	-
Mid-Year Board Items	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-
Impacts Due to State Budget Cuts	-	-	(863,698)	863,698
TOTAL BASE BUDGET	-	101,071,460	86,429,724	14,641,736
Department Recommended Funded Adjustments	-	(268,492)	898,482	(1,166,974)
TOTAL 2004-05 PROPOSED BUDGET	-	100,802,968	87,328,206	13,474,762

SCHEDULE B

DEPARTMENT: AFDC - FOSTER CARE
FUND: General
BUDGET UNIT: AAB BHI

IMPACTS DUE TO STATE BUDGET CUTS

Brief Description of State Budget Cuts	Budgeted Staffing	Appropriation	Departmental Revenue	Local Cost
County share of Child Support collections	-	-	(863,698)	863,698
Local share is projected to increase due to the State's proposal in 2004-05 to eliminate the County's share of child support collections. Currently, a portion of child support collected on behalf of the custodial parent receiving assistance payments is u				
Total	-	-	(863,698)	863,698



SCHEDULE C

DEPARTMENT: AFDC - FOSTER CARE
 FUND: General
 BUDGET UNIT: AAB BHI

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED FUNDED ADJUSTMENTS

Brief Description of Program Adjustment		Budgeted Staffing	Appropriation	Departmental Revenue	Local Cost
1.	Updated program activity for 2004-05 Due to information received after the submission of the first 2004-05 projections, caseload is now expected to be slightly lower than originally projected.	-	(268,492)	-	(268,492)
2.	Updated program activity for 2004-05 Due to information received after the October 2003 submission of the first 2004-05 projection, Non-Federal caseload is projected to be 2.5% lower than originally projected, resulting in less state revenue.	-	-	(583,480)	583,480
3.	Updated program activity for 2004-05 Due to the State's proposal in 2004-05 to eliminate the County's share of child support collections, additional realignment is increasing to offset this decrease in child support collections revenue.	-	-	240,403	(240,403)
4.	Updated program activity for 2004-05 Due to information received after the submission of the first 2004-05 projection, the Federal average grant is projected to be 6% higher than originally projected, resulting in an increase in federal revenue.	-	-	1,241,559	(1,241,559)
Total		-	(268,492)	898,482	(1,166,974)

